

ABSTRACT

5 Techniques for controlling and managing network access are  
used to enable a wireless communication device to selectively  
communicate with several wireless networks. A portable  
communication device constructed according to the invention can  
10 communicate with different networks as the device is moved  
through the areas of coverage supported by the different  
networks. As a result, the device can take advantage of services  
provided by a particular network when the device is within the  
15 area of coverage provided by that network. Thus, the device can  
selectively switch to networks that provide, for example, high  
speed Internet access, different quality of service, low cost  
service and/or different services (e.g., voice, data, multimedia,  
20 etc.). A multi-mode controller in the device may be used to  
alternately poll different networks to determine whether the  
device is within the area of coverage of a network and to  
25 selectively establish communications with those networks.

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